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1866.

YEAR OF TRIUMPH.

ENTS ABROAD.

Year Festivities in the Olden Time.

For The Tribune.

New-Year's Day, 1866.

old ancestral homes rings out the midnight chime,
ew-counting with each syllable the requiem of time;
he hour is sounding "twelve," and fading on the ear
he dying sigh is whispered of the Departing Year.
ling his dusky garments on the shadows of the night,
passes like a specter, a phantom from the sight,
chancels where repose the centuries of the past,
the dust of years forgotten he is garner'd in at last.

comes the New Year dancing to sound of clanging bells,
the coronation anthem pours grand rejoicing swells,
the great procession crowneth the royal New-Year's day,
us to years departed our latest tribute pay.

he genial world of nature he hath sown his spring-time blooms,
'd earth with glowing flowers, till'd air with soft perfumes,
h drap'd the wilds with foliage, with garlands of the vine,
spread with grass the meadows, made golden harvests shine.

dawning day beheld in arms eight hundred thousand men
rmed, intrenched, advancing, o'er mountain and thro' glen,
saw them by Potomac and down the Georgian land,
by Charleston and Savannah, and by the Rio Grande.

nt, with tried battalions, engirdled Richmond's coast,
still tightening his iron clutch upon rebellion's throat;
ach morn beheld his smoking lines, each night his cannon-flames
by Appomattox, Rapidan, and by the banks of James.

ee and his veterans, hedg'd with steel, at last resign'd the fight;
Our flag flew high o'er Petersburg, o'er Richmond's utmost hight;
Shenandoah's fair valley was swept with fire and sword,
Where Sheridan's bold riders impetuously had poured.

Far down the South, the thousands of Sherman scourg'd the land,
Laid Georgia, Carolina in waste on every hand;
Then Northward with his bayonets he press'd his steady way,
Seiz'd Johnston's captive sword, and all his host a prey.

The war was o'er, the victory won; three hundred thousand men
From Northern realms had bled and died in Southern glade and glen;
The war was o'er! and at the last, our grand, good Chief was laid
In dust, a martyr'd victor, with sorrowful parade.

The war is o'er! The guns are hush'd by mountain and by shore,
The war-ships, the flotillas no longer thunderspour,
The armies and the navies have vanish'd like a dream,
No sentries pace the empty fort, no gunboats guard the stream.

They 've vanished with their thousands to far New-England homes,
To work-shop and to ship-yard, to proud ancestral domes;
The distant West, with loving clasp, receives her sons again;
It welcomes them in villages and o'er the prairie plain.

The soldier sits at evening beside his Winter fire,
And him grouped his children, his wife, his aged sire;
tells them of the battles that he has lost or won,
leges, ambuscades, all the perils he had run.

ells of weary marches in sultry, parching heats,
comrades lov'd, of comrades slain, of perilous retreats;
ells the mournful, piteous tale of prison wants and woes,
hirst and cold and hunger, and of relentless foes.

t all this be forgotten: let brighter days succeed,
ncient hurts are cured, let wounds no longer bleed:
ll Men Free and Equal, whate'er their creed or hue;
ree as God's air, free as the clouds in yonder vault of blue.

ISAAC MCLELLAN.

The Year of Triumph.

When the year 1865 dawned upon us, our holiday greetings were brightened with the flush of many victories. Sherman had sent Savannah as a Christmas present to President Lincoln, and was preparing for his march upon Charleston. Gen. Hood's army, routed by Thomas, broken, destroyed, was flying pell-mell into Alabama, and as a military organization had ceased to exist. As chess-players would say, Grant, by destroying Hood, had won a piece, and was accordingly so much ahead of Lee. Grant's cavalry were riding around Lee's lines of communication, and destroying railroads and depots of stores. Stoneman was riding through East Tennessee and West Virginia on an errand of devastation, and doing so much mischief that "the gallant and high-souled Breckinridge was chafing like a lion deeply wounded." We had not succeeded quite as well as could be wished in the unnecessary and expensive expedition to Fort Fisher. Grant, however, with characteristic pertinacity, was picking his lock and proposing to try it again. In the South-West, Kirby Smith was in the cotton business; Magruder was doing more damage to the people of Texas assisting them to Yankee soldiers; Dick Taylor was roving through Alabama trying to keep out of a fight, and our own Canby was preparing for an assault upon Mobile. The election of President Lincoln had shown to the world that the North was resolute, united, stern—not disposed to regard the war as "a failure"—and determined to fight out the battle under the same leader. We know now how much that determination had to do with depressing the Southern heart! The Richmond leaders despaired of success. The personal organ of Mr. Davis opened the year by abandoning all hope of triumph, and openly admitted that the Confederacy was "exhausted." Sherman had proved this by marching unopposed through the richest districts of the South. Those who owned the Confederacy were willing to sell out on any terms rather than accept bankruptcy. Their stock in trade was Slavery, yet if England, France and Spain recognized their independence they would surrender Slavery. Gen. Lee was urging his rulers to give the negro a musket and put him in the ranks. This advice was sanctioned by the Governor of Virginia, and was rapidly gaining on the Rebel Congress. Like the offer to sell Slavery out to France, England and Spain, however, the proposition to arm the negroes came too late. Ephraim was wedded to his idols, and it only remained for us to let him alone!

In every respect, therefore, this year has been a year of Triumph. President Lincoln began it by another unavailing effort to make peace. The mission of Mr. Blair was timely and admirable. It showed to the world that there was no vindictiveness on the part of Mr. Lincoln, and that the magnanimity which led him to offer an amnesty in the dark year of 1861, did not desert him when nearly every city in the South was in his keeping, and his armies were marching unopposed through the heart of the Confederacy. The conference at Hampton Roads, between President Lincoln and the representatives of Mr. Davis, showed that while Mr. Davis might sell Slavery out to England, he would not surrender it to the North as a condition of peace, and so the mission came to an end. In the meantime we captured Fort Fisher and Wilmington, and in the latter part of January Sherman's army started on its Carolina march. These were the most important events of January in a military point of view. Beyond a vain attempt on the part of a few Rebel gunboats to destroy our supplies at City Point, the Rebels did nothing but act on the defensive. On the last day of January, the amendment to the Constitution abolishing Slavery was adopted by Congress.

The Southern leaders in the beginning of February called upon Lee to assume command of the whole Rebel army, while Joe Johnston was sent to oppose Sherman. It is amusing to notice that they also changed their flag, the said flag having "a ground of red and blue saltier thereon." With the pertinacity and superstitious hope of gamblers who find the chances against them, they hoped to woo fortune by some childish propitiation. Sherman continued his dreadful march, his army passing over Carolina, leaving a terrible swath and destroying every vestige of life and property. To keep Lee employed and prepare more especially for the final struggle, Grant extended his lines to the left some four or five miles, securing a foothold on Hatcher's Run. The Rebels disputed this movement stubbornly, but Grant prevailed, and having obtained a position never yielded. This was the beginning of the great campaign. The extension of Grant's lines made it impossible for Lee to move without his permission—especially preventing him from swinging off and attacking Sherman. Davis, finding destiny against him and himself assailed as the cause of every failure, continued to bid for Southern sympathy by sacrificing his friends and promoting the most popular Rebel leaders. In addition to the promotion of Lee and Johnston, Breckinridge was made Secretary of War. Public meetings were held to fire the dying embers of the long-burning Southern heart. Davis himself, standing on the brink of ruin, declared that if the people would only fight they would compel the Yankees "in less than twelve months" to petition for peace upon their "own terms." At this time gold was selling in Richmond for 4,000, Grant was strengthening his lines, Sherman was moving up toward Charleston, and Sheridan was preparing for his great raid. Charleston fell, Columbia was occupied and burned, Wilmington was captured, and, on the 27th of February, Sheridan began his cavalry march. The defiant attitude of Davis availed little in the presence of these facts. The ship was evidently sinking, and the rats were swimming for life. *The Richmond Enquirer* of the day when Sheridan started upbraided "large numbers of the Rebel Congress, who had left their seats and returned home, thus abandoning their country in the hour of peril." *The Examiner*, edited by the gifted Daniel, and commanding an influence in the South greater than that of Davis himself, announced that "the evacuation of Richmond would be the loss of all respect and authority toward the Confederate Government, the disintegration of the army, and the abandonment of the scheme of an independent Southern Confederation." This controversy, we have little doubt, settled the question of the evacuation of Richmond. Davis was in favor of that policy. He had advanced the theory that, "not the fall of Richmond, nor Wilmington, nor Charleston, nor Savannah, nor Mobile—nor of all combined—could affect the issue of the present contest." Whatever Davis may have thought, however, he was not in the position to contend with the party that *The Examiner* represented—a party embracing such men as Lee, and Johnson, and Breckinridge, and Pryor—and disposed to regard the obstinacy of the President as the cause of all the Southern woes. He did not abandon Richmond, because he dared not—and in the meantime Grant, and Sherman, and Sheridan were closing around him. In the West his power was destroyed. In the East, Johnston had merely the wreck of Hood's army and a few militiamen. Nothing remained but Lee's army, and that seemed to be melting away through our picket lines. Deserters came to New-York by regiments! In the Rebel Senate a strong peace party was forming. Men like Pryor came home from Northern prisons, and their stories of the wealth, the power, the resolution of the North, made peace opinions more and more prevalent. *The Richmond Enquirer* boldly denounced these men as "a cabal of whipped seceders," who wished to "capitulate the country into Slavery and crouch it at the footstool of Mr. Lincoln." Lee was urged to assume the powers of a dictator. The only military demonstration in March was made by Bragg, who attacked Schofield at Kinston, N. C. on the 7th of March, but made no impression upon his lines. After fighting four days he retreated, and Schofield marched on to Goldsboro, where he was met by Gen. Sherman. Sherman had been marching sixty-seven days. His march was harrassed by Johnston's army. Wheeler's cavalry hung on his flanks and rear, but inflicted no damage. At Averysboro', on the 15th of March, the Rebels attacked his left wing, but were compelled to retreat. At Bentonsville Sherman was again attacked, losing three guns, after a severe fight. Finding all of Johnston's army in his front, Sherman halted and moved his army up rapidly to gain a position. In the meantime the thrilling and magnificent events transpiring in Virginia ended his campaign.

We have spoken of the raid of Sheridan. When Grant occupied Hatcher's Run he interposed his army between Lee and Johnston, and made it impossible for the Rebel leader to leave Richmond and overwhelm Sherman. There was the danger, however, that he might retreat into East Tennessee, and in our Western country prolong the war indefinitely. Before Grant undertook the task of driving Lee out of Richmond it was necessary the Rebel leader should have no means of retreat, or at least no base from which he could organize successful resistance. Sheridan started on his journey. Leaving Winchester he pushed down the Valley, attacked Early at Waynesborough, drove him furiously out of his works, capturing 11 cannon and 17 battle-flags, instantly marched to Charlottesville, destroying railroads and bridges as he went, severed the communications between Richmond and Lynchburg, tearing up rails, burning bridges and stores, destroying the canal that supplied Richmond and Lee's army with stores, threatening the Rebel capital in force, crossing the Anna Rivers, and finally came down the Pamunkey to White House, after riding, burning, fighting and destroying about 20 days. Lee, evidently seeing that he was hemmed in, and that Sheridan's triumph over Early had closed the door to any retreat, made a sudden dash at Fort Steedman, captured it, and turned its guns upon our army. The intention of this brilliant maneuver was to divide Grant's army, get into its rear, force it to abandon its lines, burn City Point, and then either whip it in detail or retreat toward Johnston. Grant was not thus to be surprised. The fort was retaken at great loss to both sides, and our line reoccupied. To prevent another attempt at an assault on his right, Grant ordered an attack on the Rebels in front of Hatcher's Run—capturing the works defending the Southside Railroad. This still further removed the City of Petersburg from Johnston and destroyed Lee's last chance of escape. A day or two later President Lincoln met Grant, Sheridan, Sherman, Meade, and Ord in consultation, and it was agreed that the time had come to finish the business. On the 29th of March the final movement began, under President Lincoln's direction. Warren crossed Hatcher's Run on the extreme left and engaged the Rebels—assisted by Sheridan with an immense cavalry force, who assailed Lee's right flank. On the next day the left continued to advance—feeling its way—until Chamberlain's Creek or Five Forks was reached. Sheridan took command, and in the usual style of that illustrious commander, rushed upon the enemy. He made no impression, but was compelled to fall back, in consequence of the alleged tardiness of Warren, who failed to show his usual enterprise. The fighting continued for two days, and on April 1 Sheridan succeeded in isolating Lee's left from his main army, turned it, drove the enemy from their works, captured their guns and turned them upon their flying columns, taking 6,000 prisoners, 4 cannon, and 28 battle-flags. The success of the third day established the success of the movement, and made Richmond untenable. On the fourth day Gen. Parke attacked the line in front of Petersburg and captured the city, killing the celebrated Rebel General, A. P. Hill. On the fifth day, April 3, Richmond was occupied by colored troops, while the remainder of the army under Grant, Sheridan and Meade whirled past the city on the track of Lee. Richmond was a collection of houses, and they did not want it. Lee's army was their Richmond, and so the pursuit was continued, the merciless Sheridan in the advance and Meade with the main body of the army behind him. On the sixth day Sheridan was at Jettersville, pressing Lee at Amelia Court-House, and holding him until Meade came up. On the seventh day, Sheridan fell upon a great part of Lee's trains and destroyed them. On the eighth day Meade, having come up with Wright and Humphreys and joined Sheridan, they attacked Ewell at Sailor's Creek, captured him and most of his command, and destroyed other trains of Lee at Dentonsville, taking 16 guns. On the ninth day Lee was driven to Appomattox, pursued, harassed, assailed by Sheridan and Meade—losing men, wagons and guns every hour, and his army little more than a disorganized mob. War was actually becoming murder, as nothing but the ruins of an army remained. Grant wrote to Lee asking the surrender of his forces to stay the effusion of blood. On the tenth day negotiations for surrender pended, Sheridan in the meantime continuing the work of destruction, capturing guns, wagons and men, and giving the enemy no rest. On the eleventh day, being the 9th of April, Lee surrendered what remained of his army, and the great military organization of the Rebellion was permitted to dissolve, and its commanders and followers to go to their homes, "not to be disturbed by United States authority so long as they observe their parole and the laws in force where they may reside." Three days later, an order was issued by the Secretary of War, stopping all drafting and recruiting, curtailing purchases of arms and supplies, and opening the South to trade and commerce.

Peace at last! Never before had a people known so much joy. After the long night of desolation and debt and death, peace came with all the beauty of an Arctic Summer morning after an Arctic Winter night. The nation was throbbing with the ecstacy of triumph and peace, peace and union, peace and military supremacy, peace and emancipation! God's ways are mysterious. The year of Triumph was not to be the year of Joy. One week after Lee's surrender, the President of the United States was assassinated by a Southern desperado, and an attempt made upon the lives of Mr. Johnson, Mr. Seward and Gen. Grant. The President lived but a few hours, and Andrew Johnson reigned in his stead. If God had intended to rebuke this people for pride—even for the pride of victory—and cast it down before his majesty in humiliation and grief, he could have done nothing more terrible than to remove, in the hour of a nation's exultation, the nation's leader during all the glory and sadness of these many wars, their companion, champion, councilor and friend—the Moses of Freedom. He died with his eyes upon the Promised Land.

The surrender of Lee was followed by that of the other Rebel Generals. When Sheridan was pressing Lee with pitiless energy, Sherman was marching on Johnston from Goldsboro. On the 12th of April Stoneman captured Salisbury—the next day Raleigh surrendered to Kilpatrick. Wilson and his cavalry were riding into the Cotton States, capturing towns and villages. The game had been won—Lee had surrendered—and nothing remained but for the Union leaders to pick up the captured pieces. On the 18th of April, nine days after Lee's surrender, Sherman had a conference with Johnston and Breckinridge, at which the celebrated "memorandum," which attracted so much attention, was drawn up. This singular agreement was the cause of much angry discussion—some of the Government organs at Washington, for instance, hastening to insinuate that Sherman acted disloyally. The points of this agreement were that the Government should recognize the State Governments; that where new States had been formed the Supreme Court should decide upon their legality; that the inhabitants were guaranteed the rights of person and property, and all political rights and franchises. This arrangement, making no allusion to Slavery, was abruptly disavowed by the President in a memorandum written by Mr. Stanton. Among the points of Mr. Stanton's memorandum were these: That Sherman's plan proposed to restore Rebel authority in the respective States; that it subjected loyal citizens of Rebel States to debt contracted by Rebels in the name of the State; that it practically abolished confiscation laws, and relieved Rebels of every degree, who had slaughtered our people, from all pains and penalties for their crimes, and that it "relieved Rebels from the presence of our victories," and left them in a condition to renew their efforts to overthrow the United States Government. It is interesting—when we read over Sherman's memorandum, and Stanton's abrupt answer to it—to see that every evil that Stanton professed to dread has been gradually accepted by the Administration to which he belongs as the basis of Reconstruction. Sherman came nearer the policy of the new President, than Mr. Stanton. The game was over, however, and our successful champions went on picking up their pieces. On April 21, Macon was captured—Montgomery having surrendered to Wilson, and Mobile to Canby, on April 12—Dick Taylor surrendering his army to Canby on May 4, and Kirby Smith on May 26—establishing peace from the Potomac to the Rio Grande, and leaving no Rebels in arms. On May 11, Jefferson Davis and his family were captured at Irwinsville. In the latter part of May, our armies were reviewed, and from that time gradually mustered out.

War over, the work of reconstruction began! On April 29, all restrictions on commerce in the South were abolished. In Kentucky, on May 4, all guerrillas were called upon to surrender, or be treated as outlaws. On May 9, the President "declared all armed resistance to the Government's authority at an end," and directed the arrest of Rebel cruisers as pirates. On May 27, all sentences for a period "during the war" were remitted. May 29, came the Presidential proclamation of amnesty or pardon, omitting from the act of grace all who had left Congress, resigned from the Army or Navy, or left judicial stations; all who had cruelly treated our prisoners, — had been educated at the national schools, or had been State Governors, or engaged in raids from Canada, or on board Rebel privateers; and all whose property was over $20,000. On the same day, W. W. Holden was made Provisional Governor of North Carolina, with instructions to prescribe the rules and regulations necessary for calling a Convention, so as to form a new Constitution, and reopening courts, post-offices and revenue agencies. On June 13, Wm. L. Sharkey was appointed Governor of Mississippi. June 16, James Johnson was made Governor of Georgia, and A. J. Hamilton Governor of Texas. On June 21, Lewis E. Parsons became Governor of Alabama. July 1, B. F. Perry was made Governor of South Carolina. On June 21, the Virginia Legislature began its work of reconstruction by abolishing the "Alexandria oath" as a test of citizenship, and adopting the United States oath of allegiance. June 24, the President announced in a conversation with certain delegates from South Carolina that no reconstruction would be perfect unless Slavery was abolished in good faith. August 19, Gov. Sharkey of Mississippi issued an order for the organization of the militia. The order was countermanded by Gen. Slocum, but permitted by the President. Gen. Slocum probably remembered Stanton's reprimand to Sherman, and wanted to do nothing toward "the restoration of Rebel authority in their respective States." September 15, South Carolina repealed the ordinance of Secession, while, September 23, Alabama abolished Slavery. Other States followed the example, and, October 12, a proclamation withdrawing martial law from Kentucky was published. As the Southern States "reconstructed" themselves on the principle of returning to the Union with as much power as they could retain, and making as few concessions as possible, the President was constrained to announce, on October 18, "that before any State could hope to be admitted to the Union every dollar of the Rebel war debt must be repudiated." In consequence of this opinion the Conventions obeyed the President and repudiated the debt, as they would have obeyed him in any request he had seen proper to make. In all the Southern elections the people took pains to defeat any candidate who had about him the suspicion of a Presidential preference. The President seemed rather to resent the defeat of Holden in North Carolina, and directed him to hold his office, but afterward thought better of it, as, on Dec. 28, Holden was relieved. The close of the year finds the Southern States pretty generally "reconstructed." Congress does not, however, find the Presidential policy acceptable, for none of the reconstructed Congressmen have as yet been admitted to the floor. These States now occupy the strangely anomalous position of being Commonwealths in the eyes of Mr. Johnson and Mr. Seward, and territories, or penitential commonwealths, in the eyes of Congress. The formal announcement that Slavery was constitutionally abolished was made on Dec. 18. It created little attention.

Thus we close the review of events in the United States during the past year. It would be scarcely fair to record the brilliant successes of the war without noticing a success less pretentious but quite as valuable as any in the field. When Gen. Grant was arranging his lines around Petersburg, Mr. Jay Cooke began the sale of the last $500,000,000 of the 7.30 loan. Upon the successful negotiation of this loan depended the results of the war. The success was sublime. The first week in May saw a subscription of $40,387,000. May 9, over $15,000,000 were subscribed; the next day the list reached $17,000,000. On May 13, (memorable as the day when the last gun was fired in the Rebellion,) over $30,000,000 were subscribed, making nearly $100,000,000 in four days. Successes like these, creditable to the genius that planned them and the national enthusiasm that carried them through, justified the remark of Mr. Orr of South Carolina that the South was defeated in the treasury before it was defeated in the field.

In foreign lands peace has reigned. Poor Schleswig-Holstein has been rescued from the clutch of Denmark only to be devoured by Prussia. The heir of the forlorn Prince of Augustenberg, warned out of his kingdom by the police, goes to London to marry one of Queen Victoria's numerous daughters and receive a princely pension. The rebellion in Poland was suppressed, but we occasionally hear of the breaking out of local insurrections. The Italian question promises soon to become one of interest, Napoleon having given the Pope notice of his intention to quit the wily father of the faithful, has been looking for comfort to the excommunicated Victor Emmanuel, and it would not surprise us to see the Pope wearing his triple crown as the king of all the faithful, and Victor as King of the Italians, sitting together on the Quirinal. The supposition that Spain will make common cause with the Pope in the event of Napoleon's retirement does not frighten us. Spanish courage is sublime when it has San Domingo and Peru for foes, but in an Italian adventure it can scarcely be trusted. Italy has no worse enemy than herself. If her people are true to themselves, and repress the petty jealousies that so long have alienated Tuscan from Florentine and Lombard from Neapolitan—when national dissensions are no longer caused by the rival attractions of the tavern-keepers of Turin and Florence—we can expect national advancement. Russia has been steadily progressing, and now reaches over her electric hand to grasp America. The project of a German empire has failed. If the Germans want a fatherland free from a murrain of beggarly princes (a crop of husbands for royal daughters of the Houses of Brunswick and Bourbon), they must fight for it. France has been at peace. The estrangement of the Emperor and his radical cousin made a great deal of gossip, but has strengthened the Empire instead of weakening it. It is a good thing to have a member of the family on both sides. Whoever wins, the property is always in the family. England has kept the peace, and traded largely on her neighbor's misfortunes. The dissolution of Parliament has strengthened the Liberal party by giving many of the boldest and most gifted of the radicals seats in that body. The death of Palmerston clears the decks, in a sense, for a fair fight, and we may expect great excitement in favor of reform and the ballot. In Cobden, the world has lost one of the purest and ablest of the sons of men. The death of Leopold weakens the royal alliance of Europe. His good sense and conservatism were a match for the cunning of Bonaparte. Now, if ever, let the lion come down from the field of Waterloo! As Belgium, like Denmark, and Turkey, and Greece, belongs to the nationalities that exist only by sufferance—like mice in search of a cat's paw—it would be absurd to speculate upon the future of that commonwealth. Whenever the cats can agree the mice will be speedily managed. The young king George has had a sorry time with his Greek subjects, and, we believe, has sacrificed Count Sponneck—his Polonius—to appease them. Spain is, of course, on the borders of a revolution—Turkey is, of course, very sick—Bavaria is, of course, afraid the Jesuits will return, and Ireland is, of course, about to rise for the hundredth time. The Fenian revolt has been fought out in New York and not in Dublin. The Emperor of Austria is dealing sensibly with Hungary, and shows himself a wise and prudent monarch. Prussia is coarse, ruffianly, despotic, as she always is, and under the lead of Bismark, the greatest diplomatist in Europe, is grasping territorial power.

Returning to the American continent, we find Mexico in the hands of Napoleon, as represented by an amiable young Archduke named Maximilian and an "Emperor"—a number of unreconstructed Rebels, and subsidies of French, German and Belgian troops. Juarez, the President of Mexico, continues to hold his position, and, although his Government from force of circumstances is rather nomadic, his troops have gained many triumphs, and are still in the field. Despairing of conquest by force of arms or of being welcomed to the heart of the Mexican people as a legitimate ruler, Maximilian has signalized his reign by the publication of decrees which for ferocity and injustice were never excelled by Radetzky or Haynau. We presume that if the feeling in France strengthens, and the sentiment of such men as Grant continues to be as popular in America as it is now, Maximilian will have an opportunity of receiving his next New-Year's calls at Trieste. The Central American Republics remain in their normal condition of anarchy and civil war. In San Salvador a rebellion was inaugurated by Barrios, who was defeated, escaped to Nicaragua, delivered up on condition that his life would be spared, and, with South American perfidy and promptness, immediately shot. Cabanas, another rebel, was routed, and, we presume, was also shot. In Peru the Spanish are still making trouble. Spain longs to see her banners again floating over the conquests of Pizarro. Brazil is engaged in a war with the Argentine Confederation, and her Gen. Flores won two very important victories in alliance with the Uruguayans. Chili has been forced into a war with Spain, but we presume the interference of the copper-loving powers will compel a peace, especially as Spain is intensely wrong. The "rebellion in Jamaica," as it is called, is one of the most appalling events of modern times. In an oppressed English colony, where a small aristocracy controls a large laboring population, a feeling of discontent is engendered by the governing powers, a riot takes place, and a few men are killed. Worse riots in London have been confined to a police column! The English Governor instantly arrests every liberal leader, executes the most eminent, and continues the work of vengeance until about 2,000 are shot, and hanged, and flogged to death. The "rebellion" has created an intense excitement in England. The Governor has been removed, and we presume there will be a demonstration on the Ministry when Parliament meets.

The progress of the cholera created much anxiety during the Summer. Beginning in Arabia, it swept over the southern part of Europe, reaching Paris and threatening England and the United States. The Winter came and drove it away, although wise men bid us look to our sewers and highways and beware of the Spring. In the East the Suez Canal has partly succeeded, much to the delight of France. In the West, the Atlantic Cable has failed, to the great sorrow of the English. The Indian troubles have rather injured our Western Territories, but the tide of emigration rushes with the fury of a Spring torrent over the valleys and prairies of the West into the placers and gulches and canons of the golden Rocky Mountains. The year closes upon a scene of unexampled prosperity. First among the nations in the art of war, we are becoming first in the arts of peace. During the past year, the wilderness has blossomed like the rose; industry has overcome the forests; streams bearing immortal names are no longer red with blood, but turn mill-wheels and float the produce of industry and enterprise. Railroads are selecting and intersecting every district of population and wealth. Towns have arisen in a month; and freed from the tension, the waste and the fever of war, American Manhood is again rising in strength and advancing to the consummation of a free people's happiness and glory. May God be thus good to us when we come again to wish our friends a Happy New Year!

The New Year.

The first day of the year stands as a religious festival in the calendar, both of the Church of England and the Church of Rome. It is the time of merry-making throughout Christendom, and, although different nations have commenced their year at different periods, its advent is always a signal for a general exchange of kind offices and good wishes. In England this dates very far back, for a piece of Roman pottery has been disinterred, bearing an inscription which signifies "a happy New-Year."

The month January is named—as all know—from Janus, the Roman God, who presided over this period of time. Verstegan, in a book published in 1626, called *Restitution of Decayed Intelligence*, says this month was called among the Saxons *Wolf-Monat*, or Wolf Month, because the wolves, then so troublesome in the Island of Great Britain, were impelled by hunger to come down into the settlements, and the Government, to encourage their destruction, paid a high reward for every wolf's head.

In the old English writings, coupled with a mention of the festivities of Christmas, are also the sports which ushered in the new year. Nor does the biting atmosphere of the season escape notice—an atmosphere often in our climate, whose frigidity would chill any other merriment than that which brightens the holiday times.

> "Then came old January wrapped well,
> In many weeds to keep the cold away.
> Yet did he quake and quiver like to quell,
> And blow his nayles to warm him if he may."
> [Spencer's Fairie Queene.

Dr. Drake in *Shakespeare and His Times*, Hone, and others, give graphic pictures of the festivities in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, when, say they, "rejoicings, presents and wishes were necessary things throughout all classes, from princes to peasants."

There is a Latin poem of 1553, translated by Barnabe Googe, which has the following:

> "The next to this is New-Year's day,
> Whereon to every frende
> They costly presents in do bring
> And New-Year gifts do sende;
> Then gifts the husband gives his wife
> And father eke his childe,
> And maister on his men bestowes
> The like with favor mild."

Three hundred years have passed since these lines were written, and still the old fashion of giving presents continues, for, however outward circumstances may alter the condition of man, his heart and affections are in all ages the same.

Domestic life three hundred years ago, be it remembered, was very different from domestic life in the nineteenth century.

Let us see it, as described by those who have investigated such matters.

Only a few years before sleeping and eating had all been done in the same apartment, and so little was the retirement of a bed respected, that several old engravings of that time (reprinted in a work on *Domestic Manners*, by Thomas Wright) represent a visitor transacting his business by the bedside before the master and mistress have arisen; and this visitor was no less a personage than a Bishop of the Church.

In the sixteenth century, matters were slightly modified from what they had been, and something like privacy in a bedroom secured. The center of the dwelling-house was now one great hall, and smaller ones were ranged on each side, which served for sleeping and cooking purposes, or for store and lumber rooms.

This hall was, in the sixteenth century, the great gathering place of the family. It was the scene of frequent festivities, and a gallery for musicians was considered a necessary part. The fire-place often occupied the center, as may be seen in old engravings, particularly one of the great Hall, at Penshurst, Kent, in which were used iron dogs or andirons. Their utensils and conveniences were very few and simple. William Blakeson, prebendiary of Durham in 1549, possessed in his house only "one payre of cobyrons and one payre of tongys," and John Bynley, a minor canon, had in his hall "one yron chimney with a bake (back), a porre (poker), a tongys and spette (spit).

A table was placed in the middle, with a bench on each side. There was sometimes a cupboard, one or more chairs, and some cushions, kept for distinguished guests or ladies.

The hall of Bertram Anderson, a rich and distinguished merchant and Alderman of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, was furnished, in 1570, as follows:

"Two tables, with table carpets (covers), three forms, one dozen cushions, half a dozen green cushions, one counter and the carpet, two basinges (basins), one chair and one little chair." This shows the rarity of chairs.

In this central apartment the family assembled, visitors were admitted, and the wandering minstrel or juggler performed for their entertainment, while meals were served.

It was lighted at night with candles placed round the walls, or by a horn lantern on a pole at one end. Their breakfast was taken about 7 o'clock, and Harrison says "with us the nobilitie and gentrie doo ordinarilie go to dinner at eleven before noone, and supper at five to afternoone."

Dinner began with washing hands, in ewers presented by the menials, for the reason that high and low used fingers for forks, which were introduced from Italy at a later day.

One salt-cellar was placed in the middle of the table. The high-born guests were gathered at one end, where sat the master, and the inferiors and dependants at the other—hence the phrase "below

See Twelfth Page.